

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

ASIYAH ABDULRAHMAN,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CAROLYN W. COLVIN, Acting
Commissioner of Social Security,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:15-cv-01520-JAD-GWF

ORDER

Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (#1) and Screening of
Complaint (#1-1)

This matter is before the Court on Plaintiff's Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (#1), filed on August 10, 2015.

BACKGROUND

Plaintiff brings suit for a review of her social security case. She claims that the Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") failed to look at medical evidence "in regards to the appeals hearing 1/9/14." *Complaint* (#1-1). Plaintiff states that she has impairments to her musculoskeletal and neurological systems, that she suffers from anxiety and depression, and that she has diminished sensation of her limbs. She asserts that the medical evidence shows that these impairments qualify her for disability according to the Social Security Administration's definitions. Plaintiff now seeks retroactive disability benefits from the date of her initial application for disability in 2010.

DISCUSSION

I. Application to Proceed In Forma Pauperis

Plaintiff filed this instant action and attached a financial affidavit to his application and complaint as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). Having reviewed Plaintiff's financial affidavit pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915, the Court finds that Plaintiff is unable to pre-pay the filing fee. Therefore, Plaintiff's request to proceed in forma pauperis in federal court is granted.

II. Screening the Complaint

Upon granting a request to proceed *in forma pauperis*, a court must additionally screen a complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e). Specifically, federal courts are given the authority to dismiss a case if the action is legally “frivolous or malicious,” fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks monetary relief from a Defendant/Third Party Plaintiff who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). A complaint, or portion thereof, should be dismissed for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted “if it appears beyond a doubt that the plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of his claims that would entitle him to relief.” *Buckey v. Los Angeles*, 968 F.2d 791, 794 (9th Cir. 1992). A complaint may be dismissed as frivolous if it is premised on a nonexistent legal interest or delusional factual scenario. *Neitzke v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319, 327–28 (1989). When a court dismisses a complaint under § 1915(e), the plaintiff should be given leave to amend the complaint with directions as to curing its deficiencies, unless it is clear from the face of the complaint that the deficiencies could not be cured by amendment. *See Cato v. United States*, 70 F.3d 1103, 1106 (9th Cir. 1995).

III. Instant Complaint

Plaintiff asks this Court to review her social security application. A disagreement with the Social Security Administration’s (“SSA”) final decision may be grounds for this Court to review the case. Federal courts only have jurisdiction to conduct judicial review of the SSA’s final decisions. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 405(g); *see also Pacific Coast Medical Enterprises v. Harris*, 633 F.2d 123, 137 (9th Cir. 1980). It is unclear that Plaintiff has exhausted all her administrative remedies with the SSA. The Plaintiff’s brief complaint asserts that the ALJ failed to look at the medical evidence “in regard to the appeals hearing 1/9/14.” *Complaint (#1-1)*. However, the Complaint does not clearly detail whether Plaintiff properly appealed the ALJ’s decision to the Appeals Counsel and, if so, whether her request for review was denied thereby making the ALJ’s denial of benefits a final decision for purposes of judicial review. Therefore, Plaintiff does not give the Court the necessary information to determine if it has jurisdiction over this matter. As a result, the Court will dismiss this complaint with leave to amend, to provide Plaintiff another opportunity to give the Court the necessary information.

1 If Plaintiff elects to proceed in this action by filing an amended complaint, she is informed
2 that the court cannot refer to a prior pleading in order to make her amended complaint complete.
3 Local Rule 15-1 requires that an amended complaint be complete in itself without reference to any
4 prior pleading. This is because, as a general rule, an amended complaint supersedes the original
5 complaint. *See Loux v. Rhay*, 375 F.2d 55, 57 (9th Cir.1967). Once Plaintiff files an amended
6 complaint, the original pleading no longer serves any function in the case. Therefore, in an
7 amended complaint, as in an original complaint, each claim and the involvement of each defendant
8 must be sufficiently alleged. Accordingly,

9 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Plaintiff's Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis*
10 (#1) is **granted**. Plaintiff shall not be required to pre-pay the full filing fee of four hundred dollars
11 (\$400.00).

12 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Plaintiff is permitted to maintain this action to
13 conclusion without the necessity of prepayment of any additional fees or costs or the giving of
14 security therefor. This Order granting leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* shall not extend to the
15 issuance of subpoenas at government expense.

16 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Plaintiff's Complaint (#1-1) is **dismissed** without
17 prejudice with leave to amend. Plaintiff shall have until **April 18, 2016** to file an amended
18 complaint correcting the noted deficiencies.

19 DATED this 18th day of March, 2016.

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22 GEORGE FOLEY, JR.
23 United States Magistrate Judge
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